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RHEHOND/DIR ONDCP WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEABND/DEA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 001168

SIPDIS

STATE FOR INL/FO, INL/PC, EUR/ERA, L/LEI;
JUSTICE FOR CRIMINAL DIVISION, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS;
DIR ONDCP FOR OSR;
DEA HQS FOR OG, OGE;
LA PAX FOR DCM, NAS, DEA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/25/2016
TAGS: [KCRM](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [SNAR](#) [EUM](#)
SUBJECT: DELIVERY OF LETTER ON COMMISSION-FUNDED
INITIATIVES IN BOLIVIA

REF: A. PALA-MCANULTY E-MAIL OF JULY 24
[1](#)B. MCANULTY-MCCAMPBELL E-MAIL OF JULY 17
[1](#)C. MCCAMPBELL-MCANULTY E-MAIL OF JULY 15
[1](#)D. BRUSSELS 0117

Classified By: INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT
AFFAIRS (INL) COUNSELOR JAMES P. MCANULTY FOR REASONS
1.4 (B) AND (D)

DELIVERY OF LETTER

[1](#)1. (C) Mission International Narcotics and Law Enforcement
Affairs (INL) Counselor delivered a scanned copy of the
letter signed by INL Assistant Secretary David Johnson
regarding two European Commission-funded initiatives in
Bolivia (REFs A to C) on July 29 to Commission Head of Unit
Carel Edwards of the Drugs Coordination Unit. INL Counselor
briefly mentioned U.S. concerns over recent public statements
by senior Bolivian officials that contradicted U.S. and EU
views on the scope of the Commission-funded study and
development project in Bolivia.

[1](#)2. (C) Edwards read the letter carefully in the presence of
INL Counselor and indicated that he would forward it to the
Commission Foreign Relations (RELEX) office responsible for
issues involving Bolivia for a formal response. Speaking
informally, Edwards said he understood U.S. concerns over the
Bolivian statements and recalled a comment by a U.S.
Delegation member (specifically, INL Deputy Assistant
Secretary Christy McCampbell) at the recent U.S.-EU Troika
Meeting on Drug Issues (REF D) noting that continued EU
silence could be interpreted by Bolivian officials as assent.

He sympathized with this view. Edwards (protect) remarked
that Commission officials generally held a "soft" attitude
towards such statements, as did technical experts involved in
helping to implement the coca leaf study in Bolivia. He
noted, however, that even such experts, who viewed the coca
leaf issue in a largely academic fashion, have witnessed some
negative developments in Bolivia, including possible pressure
to skew the study's results. He remarked that U.S. concerns
on this issue were also becoming EU concerns as well.

[1](#)3. (U) INL Counselor will forward the formal EU response upon

receipt. U.S. Mission notes, however, that many Commission members have started their summer vacation, which may delay completion of the formal response.

COMMENTS ON OTHER DRUG ISSUES

14. (C) On separate drug issues, Edwards agreed with INL Counselor's observation that, with the exception of our approaches towards lack of Bolivian and Venezuelan counter-drug cooperation, the recent U.S.-EU Troika Meeting on Drug Issues had demonstrated considerable transatlantic convergence on drug issues. Edwards observed that even the Dutch, who have a reputation for leniency towards drug use, had cracked down in certain areas, including instituting checks of all passengers arriving at Schipol Airport from certain drug-producing or transit regions, such as the Caribbean, to detect individuals attempting to transport drugs into the country. Even French authorities, he averred, would be reluctant to implement such a draconian approach at their international airports. He commented that marijuana production had become an increasing problem in some European countries. Organized crime figures have infiltrated the drug business in The Netherlands, where the Dutch traditionally prided themselves on their agricultural prowess (on both legal and illicit crops). Unfortunately, ordinary citizens, particularly those with limited means, such as elderly, have experienced intense pressure to permit cultivation of marijuana in their attics. Such a trend has occasionally produced dangerous conditions, as indoor cultivation required

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considerable electrical power and generated excessive heat, which could be detected by police patrol helicopters. Edwards noted that marijuana cultivation had also lately become quite prevalent in certain parts of France.

SILVERBERG

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